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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Khatami threatens US - Aksam  
Khatami warns that the US will turn Iran into 'hell' if  
attacked - Sabah  
Women stayed at home in first Saudi elections - Aksam  
Nuclear 'confessions' from North Korea - Milliyet  
North Korea admits to developing nuclear weapons - Sabah  
Bush expected to oppose Armenian 'genocide' bill - Hurriyet  
Saudis hold elections without women - Milliyet  
Rice: We Opened a New Page, Hope Turkey Does the Same --  
Vatan

##### OPINION MAKERS

Iran challenges US - Radikal  
Iraq to close borders February 17-22 on Shiites' holy week -  
Radikal  
North Korea increases nuclear tension again - Zaman  
North Korea withdraws from nuclear disarmament meetings -  
Cumhuriyet  
NATO decides to expand ISAF in Afghanistan - Radikal  
US to give \$400 million to allies in Iraq, Afghanistan -  
Radikal  
Women investigators use 'sexual' tactics against Guantanamo  
inmates - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice interviewed by 'Vatan'

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Vatan's Brussels correspondent Duygu Leloglu reports from  
Luxembourg (2/11): "In a meeting with eight European  
journalists in Luxembourg, Secretary of State Condoleezza  
Rice gave some important messages. The Secretary's answers  
to "Vatan" correspondent Duygu Leloglu, as published and  
translated from Turkish, are as follows:

- Q.** How do you evaluate the impact of your visit to Turkey  
on bilateral relations?
- R.** The reason for my visit was to highlight the importance  
of Turkish-US relations. Turkish officials also reiterated  
the importance of the relationship. The US has longstanding  
strategic relations with Turkey, which became stronger after  
Turkey's NATO membership. Of course, we had disagreements  
over the Iraq issue. But, I believe that, despite those  
disagreements, the US has now opened a new page in bilateral  
relations. I hope Turkey will do the same.
- Q.** Are you planning any initiative for Turkey's concerns  
regarding Iraq?
- R.** The US understands Turkey's concerns over Iraq's  
future. We are engaged in protecting Iraq's territorial  
integrity. We are committed to an Iraq that has no danger of  
terrorism in its territory and where all minority groups  
will be represented.
- Q.** There are allegations that Turkey would intervene in  
Kirkuk in ethnic clashes were to take place. Do you think  
that there is strong possibility of Turkish intervention in  
Kirkuk?
- R.** The integrity of Iraq means that Iraq is a whole and  
cannot be divided. We want an Iraq in which all Iraqis are  
respected. It is a requirement that the Iraqis live in  
peace with its neighbors and without any threat of terrorism  
in their own land. I believe that Iraqis understand this  
very well. After suffering under the Saddam regime for so  
long, I believe that the Iraqi people are well aware of  
their responsibilities.
- Q.** What do you think should be done to prevent ethnic  
clashes in Kirkuk?
- R.** Not only the Shiites' and Sunnis', but also the  
Turkmens' and Kurds' rights should be respected. A

democratic constitution and democratic institutions will be able to provide such respect. Iraqis lived under a tyrannical dictator for a long time. Saddam tried to eliminate the differences in the country. Now, all of these differences should be taken into account, and Kirkuk should be city of all Iraqis.

**Q.** Are you planning to take any further steps on the PKK issue?

**R.** We evaluated the PKK issue with Turkish officials during my visit. The PKK is on the US list of terrorist organizations. In order to avoid Turkey facing danger from the PKK, we highlighted the need for Turkey-US-Iraq cooperation and the need to revive the trilateral mechanism. We will work on this issue when I get back to Washington.

**Q.** Are you going to award the countries which sent troops to Iraq, and what kind of award will it be?

**R.** The American people will never forget the countries that joined the international coalition forces against the Saddam regime. Especially, the support given by the UK, Poland, Australia, Romania and Bulgaria is worthy of praise. They have lost lives in Iraq too. We will never forget that. But, now we are turning the page and starting a new era, to support a democratic Iraq. Of course, we will continue our financial support to our partners in our international force.

**Q.** When does the US plan to start direct trade with and direct flights to the TRNC?

**R.** We were disappointed that the Annan Plan was rejected. We have to work to remove the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell has had meetings with the leaders there. Recently we decided to give financial support to the Turkish Cypriots. We will see what else we can do to help. Nevertheless, it should be remembered that we have multilateral obligations. But, we don't want the Turkish Cypriots to be isolated just because Cyprus entered the EU.

**Q.** If the Iranian Administration gives guarantees on its nuclear program, will the Bush Administration improve its relations with Iran?

**R.** First of all, Iran should fulfill its international obligations regarding its nuclear program. Years ago, the US was the first country to warn the world on this issue. It would be wrong to speculate how the US would act if Iran undertook its obligations. Let us see if Iran will be convincing enough on this issue. Nuclear weapons pose a great danger for world security. Therefore, the issue should be dealt with urgently. If Iran doesn't fulfill its international obligations, a next step will be taken. This next step is to carry the issue to the United Nations Security Council.

**US Builds Arms Caches in Incirlik AB:** The US has constructed two arms depots in the Incirlik Airbase in southern Turkey, reports "Milliyet." The ammunition storehouse has a capacity to keep 6,000 weapons, and enough supplies to equip a brigade, says the report. The depots also store 'tactical nuclear bombs' used against armored vehicles and bunkers, claims the paper.

**Greek Cypriot Opposition Leader in Ankara:** Nicos Anastasiades, chairman of the opposition Democratic Union (DISI), met senior AK Party officials, including FM Abdullah Gul in Ankara yesterday. 'We will continue to work for a solution on Cyprus. We agree to a bi-zonal, bi-communal solution,' Anastasiades, the first Greek Cypriot politician to visit Turkey since 1963, told reporters. Anastasiades reportedly suggested to Gul that both sides pull troops out of Cyprus. He also offered free movement of both peoples in the island, say papers.

**American Companies to Visit North Cyprus:** US Ankara Embassy Commercial Counselor Amer Kayani, accompanied by representatives of 10 US companies, is to visit north Cyprus February 17 for meetings with Turkish Cypriot chamber of trade, reports "Zaman." Halim Neyzi, chairman of the American Business Forum in Turkey which organized the day-trip of the US companies to 'TRNC,' said their delegation would be met by the US Ambassador in Cyprus at the Ercan Airport in the north of the divided island. 'US Ambassador to Ankara, Eric Edelman, said the US has apportioned \$30 million for "TRNC." We will help Turkish Cypriots to use this money for improving the infrastructure in the north,' Neyzi said. He stressed that providing American goods and services for northern Cypriots was of crucial significance. US companies to visit the Turkish Cypriot sector are Shaw/Stone&Webster, El Paso, FedEx, Cushman&Wakefield, Comsat, Oracle, GNC, World Trade Center, Raymond James and American Express.

**Turkey Assigns An Ambassador to Jerusalem:** Turkey, in a show of support for Palestine, assigned Ambassador Ercan Ozer to the post of consul-general in Jerusalem, papers report. FM Abdullah Gul announced the decision in mid-2004 as a reaction by Ankara to the Israeli violence against civilians in Palestine. Meanwhile, papers also report that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, during his visit to Turkey

some weeks ago, asked Ankara to repair the Gaza Airport. Ankara accepted, and Israel agreed to it, say reports.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Anti-Americanism; Saudi Elections; Iraq

"I Will Write Even if I Am the Only One"  
Ertugrul Ozkok observed in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (1/11): "This column is addressed to those in Turkey who have common sense. I am well aware that it will not mean anything to the sworn enemies of the United States, and that it will just create yet another opportunity for them to write whatever comes into their heads. But even if I am completely alone, I consider it my duty to write these things. Let us first look at the things that have taken place within just the last week. The leaders of Israel and Palestine, for the first time in ages, sat down at the table and shook each other's hands. The entire world, with a hopeful optimism, supports this handshake. There were also the King of Jordan and the Egyptian Head of State at the side of that table. But it is as if there were no Muslim Turkey that is rising in the regard of the Arabs. The day before this meeting, the new Secretary of State of the United States, which the entire

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world seems to hate, and the Arabs to hate even more, was in Israel. Moreover, she went to Ramallah and met with the new Palestinian Head of State, who came to power via election. Let us now look at the other scene. President Chirac and the government of France, the country that prior to the Iraq war had engaged in the most arm-wrestling with the United States, received the US Secretary of State warmly as "Dear Condi". Palestine was repairing its relations with the United States. The Arab countries were supporting the results of the elections in Iraq. Not a single word against the American administration was coming out of these countries. Neither accusations of "genocide" nor anything of the sort. This is the way the Arabs are, but we are taking pride in our "high standing", as it were: "The society with the greatest hostility toward the United States is the society of Turkey." And what is this? It's that 82 percent of the public reportedly see the United States as a threat. Today, in influential corners and in influential places, there is an anti-Americanism that the generations of the '60s and '70s have not been able to shake off. The leftists, the rightists, and the Idealists [extreme Turkish nationalists] are unable to free themselves from this. And if this feeling sometimes exerts pressure, it flows out at the first opportunity with outlandish conspiracy theories. And the US administration, for its part, sometimes takes steps that stimulate such feelings. To date, Turkey has succeeded in restricting such feelings to being the emotions of opposition among the intellectual class. But now these feelings are coming to be Turkey's official policy. I know that to write the opposite of this would be a more profitable, much less risky approach these days. And there would not be the danger of immediately being stamped by certain people with the slander of low concepts such as "an American lackey", "a supporter of a [foreign] mandate", etc. But sensible people who love their country have to be at least as bold as the others, and to express their ideas.

Some people may have short memories. But I, as a citizen of Turkey, have not forgotten that we captured Abdullah Ocalan, the bloodiest terrorist of our history, through the help of this country that we are now taking pride in declaring to be our enemy. Because I have also not forgotten that that person, now incarcerated on Imrali, has on his hands the blood of 30 thousand of our people. I cannot disregard the assistance that was provided by the financial assistance of that country in overcoming [Turkey's] 2001 economic crisis. I am not saying that the American administration cannot be criticized, or that its clumsy behavior or historic errors should not be exposed. But it is one thing to say these things in a manner and place that befit an ally, and something else entirely to make a show out of them with the mindset of the obsolete leftism of the '60s. The new goal of the Foreign Ministry was a "multi-focused foreign policy". And a few effective steps were indeed taken, especially at the beginning. But some of the statements made most recently out of the government and the AKP [ruling Justice and Development Party] take this policy away from one that is multi-focused to one that has but a single focus. And that single focus is "a certain sector of the Arab world". I say "a certain sector" because the Arab governments, despite the thinking of their publics, proceed with extreme sensitivity in their relations with the United States. Whereas we are a bit like the proverbial bull in the china shop.

A foreign policy with a single focus is very easy. You speak in favor of someone, and use the most hostile language possible about someone else. In this way you become the dearest friend of the one, and the enemy of the other. But a multi-focused policy is difficult. For today, a

successful policy means being able to maintain the same distance of respect in terms of the United States, and Israel, and the Arab countries. But unfortunately, when the former militants of the '60s and '70s have nostalgic flashbacks to the feelings deep inside them, the result is a policy like the one we have now."

#### "Elections and Change in the Middle East"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (2/11): "The Saudi Arabian local elections received international attention because they signified symbolic progress. Even though the elections were local and held on a limited basis, the event itself showed that the royal rulers have decided to share their authority partially for the first time in the country's history. . The number of advocates of human rights and freedom continues to grow in Saudi Arabia. The current system is an obstacle to their speaking out. Their attempts sometimes end in jail sentences and other punishment under the religious rules. Yet the royal family could not help but hear the popular voice for a change. . It is also a fact that foreign influence, particularly America's pressure and repeated calls for change, played a role in the new steps taken by the Saudi family. Even in their current form, the Saudi elections signify important progress in the Middle East. None of the countries there are perfect or capable of meeting democratic standards, although elections in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan are all the steps in the right direction."

#### "When Kurds Go Wrong"

Erhan Basyurt commented in the Islamist "Zaman" (2/11): "Iraqi Kurds seem to be pushing for an independent state. The elections on January 30 not only turned into a de facto vote for independence; referenda depicted Kirkuk as part of Kurdistan. . In fact, the conditions are not ripe for an independent Kurdish state, either with Kirkuk or without it. First, the neighboring countries - Turkey, Iran, and Syria - as well as the Iraqi Shiites are all against a separate state. Second, an independent Kurdistan means not only the division of Iraq but a change in the regional equilibrium as well. Such a change will increase Iran's influence in the region, and the US does not want that. . It remains a utopia for Kurds to have Kirkuk or an independent Kurdistan. Kurdish leaders should refrain from making unnecessary mistakes, and they should not reduce their room for political maneuver by placing Turkey in a hostile position."

EDELMAN